

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8036-1; Docket No. ORD 2003-0016]

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS); Announcement of 2006 Program**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice; announcement of IRIS 2006 program agenda.**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the IRIS 2006 agenda.

The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is an EPA database that contains the Agency's scientific positions on human health effects that may result from exposure to chemical substances in the environment. On March 4, 2005, EPA announced the 2005 IRIS agenda (42FR10616), with solicitation of scientific information from the public for consideration in assessing health effects from specific chemical substances. All assessments currently in progress are listed in this notice. EPA is not initiating new assessments in 2006 in order to focus on completion of existing assessments. This notice also provides an update on EPA's efforts to improve the IRIS health assessment development and review processes.

DATES: While EPA is not expressly soliciting comments on this notice, the Agency will accept information related to the substances included herein. Please submit any information in accordance with the instructions provided at the end of this notice.**ADDRESSES:** Please submit relevant scientific information identified by docket ID number EPA-HQ-ORD-2003-0016, online at <http://www.regulations.gov> (EPA's preferred method); by e-mail to ord.docket@epa.gov; mailed to EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; or by hand delivery or courier to EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Comments on a disk or CD-ROM should be formatted in Word or as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption, and may be mailed to the mailing address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the IRIS program, contact Amy Mills, IRIS Program Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment, (mail code: 8601D), Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, 20460; telephone: (202) 564-3204, facsimile: (202) 565-0075; or e-mail: mills.amy@epa.gov.

For general questions about access to IRIS, or the content of IRIS, please call the IRIS Hotline at (202) 566-1676 or send electronic mail inquiries to hotline.iris@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

IRIS is an EPA database containing Agency scientific positions on potential adverse human health effects that may result from exposure to chemical substances found in the environment. (EPA notes that information in the IRIS database has no preclusive effect and does not predetermine the outcome of any rulemaking. When EPA uses such information to support a rulemaking, the scientific basis for, and the application of, that information are subject to comment.) IRIS currently provides information on health effects associated with more than 500 chemical substances.

The database includes chemical-specific summaries of qualitative and quantitative health information in support of the first two steps of the risk assessment process, *i.e.*, hazard identification and dose-response evaluation. Combined with specific situational exposure assessment information, the information in IRIS is an important source in evaluating potential public health risks from environmental contaminants.

EPA's overall process for developing IRIS assessments consists of: (1) An annual **Federal Register** announcement

of EPA's IRIS agenda and call for scientific information from the public on selected chemical substances; (2) a search of the scientific literature; (3) development of IRIS Summaries and support documents; (4) EPA-wide review; (5) external peer review; (6) management review and approval; and (7) entry of IRIS Summaries and support documents into the IRIS database (<http://www.epa.gov/iris>).

The IRIS Annual Agenda

Each year, EPA develops an annual agenda for the IRIS program and announces new assessments under review. A focus of the IRIS Program for 2006 is to move forward the 76 assessments already in progress. In light of this focus, EPA will not initiate any new assessments in 2006. This notice provides: (1) A list of IRIS assessments in progress; (2) an update on improvements made to the IRIS program and preliminary notice of further improvements under consideration.

Assessments in Progress

The following assessments are underway. Each was listed in the 2005 IRIS agenda. The status and planned milestone dates for each assessment can be found on the IRIS Track system, accessible from the IRIS database. All health endpoints due to chronic exposure, cancer and noncancer, are being assessed unless otherwise noted. For all endpoints assessed, both qualitative and quantitative assessments are being developed where information is available. Those substances denoted with an asterisk (*) may require additional time for analysis or peer review due to their large databases or complex assessment issues. Substances denoted with a double asterisk (**) are being evaluated for effects from acute and/or other less-than-lifetime exposure durations. These substances are part of a pilot test to evaluate the application of methods, procedures, and resource needs for adding health effects information for less-than-lifetime exposure durations to IRIS. Additional less-than-lifetime durations may be added to ongoing chronic assessments as needs arise and resources permit.

Substance name	CAS No.
acetaldehyde	75-07-0
acrolein**	107-02-8
acrylamide	79-06-1
acrylonitrile	107-13-1
aldicarb/aldicarb sulfoxide	116-06-3/1646-87-3
aldicarb sulfone	1646-88-4
arsenic	7440-38-2
asbestos*	1332-21-4
benzene**	71-43-2
benzo(a)pyrene	50-32-8
beryllium (cancer effects)	7440-41-7
bromobenzene	108-86-1
bromodichloromethane	75-27-4
bromoform	75-25-2
butyl benzyl phthalate	85-68-7
cadmium	7440-43-9
carbon tetrachloride	56-23-5
cerium	1306-38-3
chloroethane	75-00-3
chloroform (inhalation route)	67-66-3
chloroprene	126-99-8
cobalt	7440-48-4
copper	7440-50-8
Cryptosporidium	(2)
dibromochloromethane	124-48-1
dibutyl phthalate (chronic; less-than-lifetime** exposures)	84-74-2
1,2-dichlorobenzene	95-50-1
1,3-dichlorobenzene	541-73-1
1,4-dichlorobenzene	106-46-7
1,2-dichloroethylene	540-59-0
di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate (DEHA)	103-23-1
di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	117-81-7
1,4-dioxane	123-91-1
ethanol	64-17-5
ethyl tertiary butyl ether	637-92-3
ethylbenzene	100-41-4
ethylene dichloride	107-06-2
ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (cancer effects)	111-76-2
ethylene oxide (cancer effects; noncancer acute** exp.)	75-21-8
formaldehyde*	50-00-0
hexachlorobutadiene	87-68-3
hexachloroethane	67-72-1
hexachlorocyclopentadiene**	77-47-4
hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-triazine (RDX)	121-82-4
2-hexanone	591-78-6
hydrogen cyanide	74-90-8
hydrogen sulfide**	7783-06-4
isopropanol	67-63-0
kepone	43-50-0
methanol	67-56-1
methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)	1634-04-4
methylene chloride (dichloromethane)	75-09-2
mirex	2385-85-5
naphthalene (inhalation route)*	91-20-3
nickel (soluble salts)	(2)
nitrobenzene	98-95-3
PAH mixtures*	(2)
pentachlorophenol	87-86-5
perfluorooctanoic acid-ammonium salt (PFOA)	3825-26-1
perfluorooctane sulfonate-potassium salt (PFOS)	2795-39-3
phosgene (acute** exposure)	75-44-5
platinum	7440-06-4
polybrominated diphenyl ethers (tetra, penta, hexa, deca-BDEs)	(2)
polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (noncancer endpoints)	1336-36-3
propionaldehyde	123-38-6
refractory ceramic fibers	(1)
styrene	100-42-5
2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin)*	1746-01-6
1,1,2-tetrachloroethane (chronic; less-than-lifetime** exp.)	79-34-5
tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene)	127-18-4
tetrahydrofuran	109-99-9
thallium	7440-28-0
trichloroacetic acid	76-03-9
1,1,1-trichloroethane (chronic; less-than-lifetime** exp.)	71-55-6

Substance name	CAS No.
trichloroethylene*	79-01-6
1,2,3-trichloropropane	96-18-4
2,2,4-trimethylpentane	540-84-1
uranium compounds	(²)
vinyl acetate	108-05-4

¹ Not applicable.

² Not applicable—various.

Note that the asbestos noncancer assessment has been expanded to include cancer effects. This is the only substantive change to the 2005 IRIS agenda.

IRIS Summaries and support documents for all substances listed as on-going assessments in 2006 will be provided on the IRIS Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/iris> as they are completed. This publicly available Web site is EPA's primary location for IRIS documents. In addition, external peer review drafts of IRIS assessments are posted for public information and comment. These drafts will continue to be accessible via the IRIS and NCEA Web sites. Note that these drafts are intended for public information only, and do not represent the Agency's final position.

Other Improvements to the IRIS Program—Update

As discussed in the **Federal Register** notice announcing the 2005 agenda, EPA is improving the IRIS program and its products through a series of program reforms. EPA has expanded its central IRIS Staff to better manage the program and promote scientific quality and consistency. In addition, external scientific peer reviews are being conducted routinely by panel meetings rather than by mail reviews. This step is being taken to provide the best possible scientific evaluation of each assessment. Further, EPA now conducts each external peer review at the end of each IRIS assessment review process, strengthening the role of peer review in informing the outcome of the process. A public comment period prior to panel peer review meetings is now standard practice, and the meetings are open to the public for observation. These program reforms facilitate scientific input from the public and make the peer review process more transparent.

Further enhancements to the IRIS assessment development and review process are currently under consideration. A follow-up notice will be published in the **Federal Register** to announce a public workshop on proposed additions to the IRIS process in 2006.

General Information

As of Monday, November 28, 2005, EPA's EDOCKET was replaced by the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS), the new federal government-wide system. FDMS was created to provide a single point of access to all federal rulemaking activities. All materials previously found in EDOCKET are now available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

A. How Can I Get Copies of Related Information?

EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. ORD 2003-0016. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OEI Docket is (202) 566-1752.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system. EPA Dockets at <http://www.regulations.gov> may be used to submit or view public submissions, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

It is important to note that EPA's policy is that public submissions, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the submission contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute is not included in the official public docket or in EPA's electronic public

docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material, including copyrighted material contained in a public comment, will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the EPA Docket Center.

B. How and To Whom Do I Submit Information?

Information on chemical substances listed in this notice may be submitted as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. If you submit electronic information, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your submission and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the information and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your information due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your submission. Any identifying or contact information provided in the body of submitted information will be included as part of the submission information that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your information due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your information.

Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit information to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving submissions. The electronic public docket system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your submission. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's electronic mail (e-mail) system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send e-mail directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, your e-mail address is automatically captured and included as

part of the submission that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

Dated: February 15, 2006.

Peter Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. E6-2576 Filed 2-22-06; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-OW-8035-9]

Notice of Availability of Final Recommended Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Diazinon

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of final recommended aquatic life ambient water quality criteria for diazinon. The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA to develop and publish, and from time to time revise, recommended criteria for water accurately reflecting the latest scientific knowledge. These criteria provide EPA's recommendations to states and authorized tribes as they establish their water quality standards as state or tribal law or regulation. An EPA ambient water quality criterion does not substitute for EPA regulations, nor is it a regulation. It does not impose legally binding requirements on the EPA, states, authorized tribes or the regulated community. State and tribal decision makers have discretion to adopt approaches that differ from EPA's guidance.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the criteria document entitled, *Ambient Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria for Diazinon—Final (EPA-822-F-05-001)* may be obtained from EPA's Water Resource Center by phone at (202) 566-1729, or by e-mail to center.water.resource@epa.gov or by conventional mail to: EPA Water Resource Center, 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. You can also download the document from EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/diazinon/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Stevens, U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; (202) 566-1135; stevens.rick@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Interested Entities

Entities potentially interested in today's notice are those that produce, use, or regulate diazinon. Categories and entities interested in today's notice include:

Category	Examples of interested entities
State/Local/Tribal Government.	Water Quality Officials.
Insecticide Producers	U.S. and International Chemical Companies.
Insecticide Users	Growers of fruit, vegetable, nut, and ornamental crops.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be interested in this notice. This table lists the types of entities that EPA is aware could potentially be interested in this notice. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be interested.

B. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for the diazinon final recommended ambient aquatic life water quality criteria under Docket ID No. OW-2003-0062. The official public docket also consists of the draft criteria document, and scientific views received. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426. To view these documents and materials, please call ahead to schedule an appointment. Every user is entitled to copy 266 pages per day before incurring a charge. The Docket may charge 15 cents a page for each page over the 266-page limit plus an administrative fee of \$25.00.

2. *Electronic Access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet

under the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

II. Background and Today's Notice

A. What Are Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria?

An EPA recommended water quality criterion is a level of a pollutant or other measurable substance in water that, when met, will protect aquatic life and/or human health. Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA to develop and publish and, from time to time, revise recommended water quality criteria to accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge. Water quality criteria developed under section 304(a) provide guidance to states and tribes in adopting water quality criteria into their water quality standards under section 303(c). Once adopted by a state or tribe, the water quality standards then are a basis for developing regulatory controls on the discharge or release of pollutants. EPA's section 304(a) criteria also provide a scientific basis for EPA to develop any necessary federal water quality regulations under section 303(c) of the CWA.

The recommended criteria in today's notice are based on the factors specified in section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act, including the kind and extent of effects of the pollutant on human health and aquatic organisms. EPA's recommended criteria are used by states and tribes in developing their regulatory criteria under section 303(c) of the CWA. Under the Clean Water Act, regulatory criteria must protect the designated use, independent of the economic and technical feasibility of meeting the criteria. Economic and technical feasibility factors are considered by states and tribes when they adopt designated uses into their water quality standards under section 303(c) of the Act and when states, tribes, and EPA consider variance requests for regulatory controls. Moreover, states and tribes may also consider alternative scientifically-defensible approaches to adopting criteria into their water quality standards.

B. What Is Diazinon and Why Are We Concerned About It?

Diazinon is an organophosphorus pesticide traditionally used throughout the U.S. to control insects in agricultural areas, households and urban settings. However, as of December 31, 2004, all residential uses of diazinon products in the United States have been phased out or cancelled.

Diazinon is mobile and moderately persistent in the environment. Due to its chemical properties and widespread